RESPONSE TO MOTION TO SEAL Case No. 2:15-cv-01483-JLR

LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN & BERNSTEIN, LLP 275 Battery Street, 29th Floor San Francisco, CA 94111-3339 Tel. 415.956.1000 • Fax 415.956.1008 Below Plaintiffs briefly respond to Microsoft's Motion to Seal with respect to its Motion for Summary Judgment, filed on March 15, 2018, at Dkt. 398.

First, with respect to page 16, lines 4 to 25, of Plaintiff Katherine Moussouris's

Since Microsoft filed its Motion to Seal, the Parties have met and conferred and reached

## Areas of Agreement

agreement on two areas of previous disagreement:

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deposition, Plaintiffs have agreed to unseal this content in its entirety with the exception of the names of two prospective employers at line 4. Microsoft has indicated it does not oppose sealing at line 4. "[C]ompelling reasons" exist to seal the names of these prospective employers because this is "business information that might harm [Ms. Moussouris]'s competitive standing" in the field of cybersecurity. R&R, Dkt. 351, at 22. A replacement for the redacted version of the excerpts from Ms. Moussouris's deposition transcript is attached herewith as Exhibit 1.

Second, the Parties have agreed that the name of Judy Mims, a member of Microsoft's Employee Relations Investigation Team ("ERIT"), appearing in Ms. Moussouris's interrogatory responses may be filed publicly. Ms. Mims's identity has already been disclosed in the report of Ms. Rhoma Young, and Ms. Young relies on the statements of Ms. Mims to render findings about the quality of ERIT. *See* Dkt. 394 at ¶ 4, pp. 25-26, 44. A replacement for the redacted version of Ms. Moussouris's interrogatory responses is attached herewith as Exhibit 2.

Apart from the area of disagreement described below, the Parties are otherwise in agreement with respect to Microsoft's Motion to Seal.

### Area of Disagreement

Plaintiffs do not believe "compelling reasons" exist to support the breadth of sealing Microsoft has sought for the Named Plaintiffs' interrogatory responses, filed at Dkts. 402-14, 402-15, 402-16. Microsoft's sole argument in support of sealing is the protection of "identifying information of non-parties." Mot. to Seal, Dkt. 398, at 2. Plaintiffs are mindful of the Special Master's guidance regarding the redactions of names and limited additional identifying

information to protect the privacy of third parties within documents Microsoft produced in discovery and that Plaintiffs cited in support of their Motion for Class Certification. In fact, Plaintiffs do not contest the sealing of any third-party names (other than Ms. Mims, as stipulated by Microsoft, above). Plaintiffs do object to the sealing of certain third-party, generic job titles (*e.g.*, that the third party is, for example, a manager of Plaintiffs) or other descriptions wholly unrelated to a third-party name or job title.

All of the material in dispute is contained in Plaintiffs' interrogatory responses. Plaintiffs submit that this makes this dispute fundamentally different from the previous issue, where names and/or job titles were merely listed in company documents. By contrast, the interrogatory responses are sworn testimony by the *parties*—that is, the Named Plaintiffs themselves. They contain the Named Plaintiffs' own observations and impressions. For this reason, Plaintiffs believe that sealing should be more carefully circumscribed and limited (if at all), to the names of third parties, but not generic job titles, positions relative to the Named Plaintiffs, years of experience, or facts surrounding allegations of discrimination that are unrelated to name or job title.

Plaintiffs have attempted to meet and confer with Microsoft about what Plaintiffs contend is the over-breadth of its redactions, inviting Microsoft to propose alternative redactions aimed at non-party identities, while still allowing the Named Plaintiffs' stories to be told and understood on the public docket. Microsoft declined to do so. In a further effort at compromise, Plaintiffs hereby propose only that the following portions of the Named Plaintiffs' interrogatory responses described below be further unsealed from what Microsoft filed on the public docket at Dkts. 402-14, 402-15, 402-16. Plaintiffs' complete proposed redactions are filed herewith under seal as Exhibit 3.

#### a. Allegations About the Named Plaintiffs' Managers Already on the Public Docket

A discrimination lawsuit is in its essence a public allegation of discrimination. Thus, it is axiomatic that Named Plaintiffs in a discrimination lawsuit may *publicly* allege their managers

have discriminated against them and other women—*i.e.*, that these managers have engaged in misconduct directed by Microsoft's common, discriminatory system of employee management. In fact, the Named Plaintiffs have already done so in the operative complaint and Ms. Moussouris's publicly-filed EEOC charge. Puzzlingly, Microsoft has sought to seal references to such allegations, despite the fact that Plaintiffs' counsel reminded Microsoft during the attempted meet and confer that such allegations are already public and pointed Microsoft to specific paragraphs of the operative complaint and Ms. Moussouris's EEOC charge. There is no conceivable rationale for sealing material that is already public, and therefore Plaintiffs propose unsealing the portions of the Named Plaintiffs' interrogatory responses addressing allegations that are already on the public docket as shown in the chart below.

Publicly-Filed Document	Microsoft's Proposed Redaction (bolded)	Plaintiffs' Proposed Redaction (bolded)
For example, in May 2012, Ms. Moussouris's manager told her that she had outstanding performance and had earned a rating of 2. However, after the forced ranking process, she instead received a 3.  Second Amend. Compl. ¶ 63.	For example in  , told her that she had outstanding performance and had earned a rating of 2. However, after the stack ranking process, Plaintiff instead received a 3.  Moussouris Interrogatory Responses, Plat 402, 14, 015	for example in told her that she had outstanding performance and had earned a rating of 2. However, after the stack ranking process, Plaintiff instead received a 3.  See Exhibit 3 attached herewith
	Responses, Dkt. 402-14, 9:5-7.	nerewith.
Similarly, in May 2013, Ms. Moussouris's manager again commended her performance and told her she deserved a 1. After the forced ranking process, Ms. Moussouris received a 2.  Second Amend. Compl. ¶ 64.	Similarly, in again commended her performance and told her that her performance warranted a 1. However, Plaintiff received a 2 after the stack ranking process because managers at the calibration meeting found Plaintiff's communication style too aggressive.	Similarly, in again commended her performance and told her that her performance warranted a 1. However, Plaintiff received a 2 after the stack ranking process because managers at the calibration meeting found Plaintiff's communication style too aggressive.
	Moussouris Interrogatory Responses, Dkt. 402-14, 9:7- 10.	See Exhibit 3 attached herewith.

1	Publicly-Filed Document	Microsoft's Proposed	Plaintiffs' Proposed Redaction
2		Redaction (bolded)	(bolded)
3	Starting in 2013, Ms. Moussouris's manager	For example, starting in	"For example, starting in
4	systematically undermined Ms. Moussouris by reducing	, systematically undermined her by	systematically undermined her by
5	the scope of her role, even though her high performance	though her high performance never changed. For example,	though her high performance never changed. For example,
6 7	never changed. For example, he took away several of Ms. Moussouris's responsibilities	he	he
8	and re-assigned them to a less-qualified and less-	to a less-qualified and less-	to a less- qualified <u>and less-exp</u> erienced
9	experienced man, two levels below Ms. Moussouris. He	experienced man two Plaintiff. He also began	man two Plaintiff. He also began to
10	also began to assign Ms. Moussouris low-level tasks that he never asked men at	to low-level tasks that he never asked men at Plaintiff's level to do.	low-level tasks that he never asked men at Plaintiff's level to do."
11	Ms. Moussouris's level to do.	Moussouris Interrogatory	See Exhibit 3 attached
12	Second Amend. Compl. ¶ 71.	Responses, Dkt. 402-14, 17:24-18:5.	herewith.
13	In or around November 2014, Ms. Piermarini asked her	In November 2014, Plaintiff told	In November 2014, Plaintiff told
14 15	manager where she stood in terms of the next level	that she believed she deserved a promotion.	that she believed she deserved a promotion.
16	promotion. He told her that she needed to take on a "big project."	told Plaintiff that he did not think she was ready for the promotion and that she	told Plaintiff that he did not think she was ready for the promotion and that she
17	Second Amend. Compl. ¶ 86.	needed to execute a high visibility project first.	needed to execute a high visibility project first.
18 19		Piermarini Interrogatory Responses, Dkt. 402-16,	See Exhibit 3 attached herewith.
20		12:24-13:1.	
21	In May 2013, [redacted] put me up for promotion to	The following year in	The following year in
22	Principal Security Strategist (Level 65). This promotion	put her up for promotion to Principal	put her up for promotion to Principal Security
23	was denied.  EEOC Charge of Katherine	Security Strategist (Level 65), but the promotion was denied.	Strategist (Level 65), but the promotion was denied.
24	Moussouris ¶ 14.	Moussouris Interrogatory Responses, Dkt. 402-14 12:10-11.	See Exhibit 3 attached herewith.
<ul><li>25</li><li>26</li></ul>	Microsoft's Legal Counsel and Affairs ("LCA")	Microsoft HR spoke with Plaintiff and investigated the	Microsoft HR spoke with Plaintiff and investigated the
	(2011)		

1 2	Publicly-Filed Document	Microsoft's Proposed Redaction (bolded)	Plaintiffs' Proposed Redaction (bolded)
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	department investigated and concluded that he in fact had been sexually harassing female employees. Microsoft transferred [redacted] to a different part of the Trustworthy Computing Security Group and took away some of his managerial privileges. However, before he was transferred, he penalized me with a low bonus. I complained about retaliation, but the company allowed this unfair decision to stand. Since that time, [redacted] has had his managerial privileges reinstated and has been promoted to Senior Director.  EEOC Charge of Katherine Moussouris ¶ 19.	allegations, concluding that had in fact been sexually harassing female employees. Yet Microsoft's response was to re-assign to another  , while retaining his level and opportunities for advancement. Before he was transferred, however, retaliated against Plaintiff by assigning her a low bonus. Plaintiff complained about retaliation but Microsoft took no action. Since that time.  have been reinstated and he has been promoted to Director.  Moussouris Interrogatory Responses, Dkt. 402-14,	allegations, concluding that had in fact been sexually harassing female employees. Yet Microsoft's response was to re-assign another the while retaining his level and opportunities for advancement. Before he was transferred, however, retaliated against Plaintiff by assigning her a low bonus. Plaintiff complained about retaliation but Microsoft took no action. Since that time, have been reinstated and he has been promoted to Director.  See Exhibit 3 attached herewith.
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	On January 28, 2014, I complained to Human Resources that [redacted] was unfairly reducing the scope of my responsibilities and sending intimidating and accusatory email messages. Microsoft has not taken any corrective actions.  EEOC Charge of Katherine Moussouris ¶ 20.	In January 2014, Plaintiff complained about this unfair treatment to , but Microsoft did nothing to stop behavior.  Moussouris Interrogatory Responses, Dkt. 402-14 18:3-5.	In January 2014, Plaintiff complained about this unfair treatment to  but Microsoft did nothing to stop behavior.  See Exhibit 3 attached herewith.

# b. Allegations About the Named Plaintiffs' Managers Not Yet On Public Docket

Ultimately, for the reasons stated above, it is not appropriate to seal allegations of discrimination on the part of the Named Plaintiffs' managers, regardless of whether these allegations already appear on the public docket. Allegations of manager discrimination patterned

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on a company-wide system of gender bias are quintessential to an employment discrimination case, and there are not compelling reasons to seal non-identifying details of these allegations. Below Plaintiffs provide representative examples of allegations of manager conduct that Plaintiffs seek to unseal, still without revealing the identity of these managers.

Microsoft	's Proposed Redaction (bolded)	Plaintiffs' Proposed Redaction (bolded)
demeaning women in instance, or in from members or undermine. His commendation was for. In addition comments a understand frequently insubordination approximate.	ther as a professional and leader.  Ints were made in reference to  Interest to the sometimes brought  Interest to meetings to  Interest to meetin	has made multiple demeaning comments about various women in
In Plaintiff	ates that her "[c]ommunication e too direct at times."	In Plaintiff's  , , states that her "[c]ommunication style can be too direct at times."
See Muenc Dkt. 402-1	how Interrogatory Responses, 5, 6:16-17.	See Exhibit 3 attached herewith.
as	ked her to be a "cheerleader" to	asked her to be a "cheerleader" to

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Microsoft's Proposed Redaction (bolded)	Plaintiffs' Proposed Redaction (bolded)
encourage other teams to meet quality	encourage other teams to meet quality
criteria for Visual Studio software. Plaintiff	criteria for Visual Studio software. Plaintiff
has never heard a man instructed to be a	has never heard a man instructed to be a
"cheerleader" at Microsoft.	"cheerleader" at Microsoft.
See Muenchow Interrogatory Responses,	See Exhibit 3 attached herewith.
Dkt. 402-15, 19:18-20.	
On several occasions, has	On several occasions, has
plaintiff for getting overly	plaintiff for getting overly
"emotional" when she has tried to address	"emotional" when she has tried to address
her concerns about his unfair treatment of	her concerns about his unfair treatment of
her, in a manner that Plaintiff believes is	her, in a manner that Plaintiff believes is
demeaning and gender-based.	demeaning and gender-based.
See Piermarini Interrogatory Responses,	See Exhibit 3 attached herewith.
Dkt. 402-16, 11:8-10.	

### c. Descriptions of Discrimination Against Other Women

The Named Plaintiffs have offered sworn testimony about a pervasive culture of discrimination at Microsoft in part through their recounting of episodes of discrimination against others that they have observed. There are compelling reasons to protect the privacy of other women who have suffered discrimination at Microsoft, and Plaintiffs agree that the names of these women and certain projects on which the women work should be kept under seal so as not to reveal their identifies. Microsoft, however, has sought to seal much more, including generic job titles and, in some cases, the nature of harassing conduct and Microsoft's failure to adequately address it. Below Plaintiffs provide representative examples of allegations of discrimination against other women that Plaintiffs seek to unseal, still without revealing the identity of these women or the men accused of misconduct. Plaintiffs do not seek to unseal complex group or job titles that may be more likely to reveal an individual's identity.

Microsoft's Proposed Redaction (bolded)	Plaintiffs' Proposed Redaction (bolded)
Additionally, Plaintiff learned in approximately 2005 of a serious incident of	Additionally, Plaintiff learned in approximately 2005 of a serious incident of

Microsoft's Proposed Redaction (bolded)	Plaintiffs' Proposed Redaction (bolded)
sexual harassment affecting	sexual harassment affecting
lead her out	
, asked her out on a date, making her uncomfortable, and	, asked her out on a date, making her uncomfortable, and she
she reported the incident to human	reported the incident to human resources.
resources. had to	had to s to get away
get away from the situation.	from the situation.
, then treated her differently and	, then treated her differently and spread rumors
spread rumors that she was "difficult to	that she was "difficult to work with."
work with."	
	See Exhibit 3 attached herewith.
See Muenchow Interrogatory Responses,	
Dkt. 402-15, 7:18-23.	
Plaintiff has also learned that a former , made	Plaintiff has also learned that a former , made
inappropriate comments and unwanted	inappropriate comments and unwanted
advances at	advances at
in approximately	, in approximately
Some of these inappropriate comments were made in front of other	Some of these inappropriate comments were made in front of other Microsoft
Microsoft employees who reported the	employees who reported the conduct to
conduct to Human Resources.	Human Resources.
subsequently left the company.	subsequently left the company.
C Dii-i It D	G F-1 1 2 2 44 - 1 - 11 4
See Piermarini Interrogatory Responses, Dkt. 402-16, 8:20-24.	See Exhibit 3 attached herewith.

### d. Comparisons to Men Microsoft Has Treated More Favorably

The Named Plaintiffs allege claims of disparate treatment—i.e., intentional discrimination. At the core of their disparate treatment claims is the allegation that Microsoft, via a company-wide system of gender bias, has treated similarly situated men more favorably than the Named Plaintiffs. Despite the clear importance of comparisons between the outcomes of men and women to the claims at issue in this lawsuit, Microsoft has sought to seal a multitude of facts in the Named Plaintiffs' interrogatory responses that do not identify these comparison men but instead make clear the appropriateness and persuasiveness of the comparisons

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themselves. These facts include generic job titles, the years of promotions, relative job experience, and the nature of the comparator men's work vis-à-vis the Named Plaintiffs' work. In a lawsuit alleging disparate treatment on the basis of gender, there are no compelling reasons to keep facts under seal that illustrate disparate treatment. Below Plaintiffs provide representative examples of comparisons between the Named Plaintiffs and male Microsoft employees that Plaintiffs seek to unseal, still without revealing the identity of these male employees. Again, Plaintiffs do not seek to unseal complex group or job titles that may be more likely to identify an individual Microsoft employee.

Microsoft's Proposed Redaction (bolded)	Plaintiffs' Proposed Redaction (bolded)
The following men started at approximately the same time as Plaintiff did in at Microsoft in similar roles and have been promoted to the title of Principal while Plaintiff has not, despite similar or better performance:  started more than Plaintiff and eventually became a Principal (Level 65) at Microsoft; joined the  Plaintiff and became a Principal (level 65) in or around  started employment with Microsoft Plaintiff, and he was promoted to Principal in or around and joined Microsoft in and has been promoted to a Principal (level 65).	The following men started at approximately the same time as Plaintiff did in at Microsoft in similar roles and have been promoted to the title of Principal while Plaintiff has not, despite similar or better performance:  started more than Plaintiff and eventually became a Principal (Level 65) at Microsoft; joined the  Plaintiff and became a Principal (level 65) in or around  started employment with Microsoft Plaintiff, and he was promoted to Principal in or around and joined Microsoft in and has been promoted to a Principal (level 65).
See Moussouris Interrogatory Responses, Dkt. 402-14, 20:17-25.	See Exhibit 3 attached herewith.
Plaintiff observed that rose	Plaintiff observed that rose
through the ranks much faster than her	through the ranks much faster than her
despite performing work of the same or	despite performing work of the same or
similar scope. He started working at	similar scope. He started working at
Microsoft directly out of college in Plaintiff—and was	Microsoft directly out of college in Plaintiff—and was

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	Microsoft's Proposed Redaction (bolded)	Plaintiffs' Proposed Redaction (bolded)
2	promoted to	promoted to
3	after less than one year of work; it took Plaintiff three years to	after less than one year of work; it took Plaintiff three years to
4	achieve this promotion. He is currently a	achieve this promotion. He is currently a
	. Nevertheless,	Nevertheless,
5	Plaintiff and perform work of	Plaintiff and perform work of
6	similar quality. In fact, in Plaintiff and had been responsible for	similar quality. In fact, in Plaintiff and had been responsible for
7	the same scope of work (coordinating	the same scope of work (coordinating
7	multiple teams' testing and validation for	multiple teams' testing and validation for
8	monthly	monthly
9	ensure they did not break ), while Plaintiff	ensure they did not break ), while Plaintiff
	believes was paid more than	believes was paid more than
10	Plaintiff.	Plaintiff.
11		
12	See Muenchow Interrogatory Responses, Dkt. 402-15, 16:15-25.	See Exhibit 3 attached herewith.
12	Plaintiff also has observed that	Plaintiff also has observed that
13	rose through the ranks much	rose through the ranks much
14	faster than she did despite having a shorter	faster than she did despite having a shorter
	tenure with the company and fewer	tenure with the company and fewer
15	years of relevant experience. Mr. started working for Microsoft	years of relevant experience. Mr. started working for Microsoft
16	in approximately as a	in approximately as a
1.7	<ul><li>approximately</li></ul>	- approximately
17	years after Plaintiff started working for	years after Plaintiff started working for the
18	the company. In approximately became a	became a became a
19	occanie a	occanic a
	was promoted to Level	was promoted to Level
20	65, despite having only	65, despite having only
21	experience as a only of tenure with the	experience as a only of tenure with the
	company.	company.
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23	See Piermarini Interrogatory Responses,	See Exhibit 3 attached herewith.
24	Dkt. 402-16, 15:23-16:5.	
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**Conclusion** 1 For the stated reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Special Master recommend 2 that Microsoft's Motion to Seal be granted in part and denied in part in accordance with 3 Plaintiffs' proposed redactions of the Named Plaintiffs' interrogatory responses as filed herewith 4 in Exhibit 3. 5 6 Dated: March 21, 2018 LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN & 7 BERNSTEIN, LLP 8 By: /s Sharon M. Lee 9 Sharon M. Lee (Wash. Bar No. 37170) 2101 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1900 10 Seattle, WA 98121 Telephone: (206) 739-9059 11 Facsimile: (415) 956-1008 E-Mail: slee@lchb.com 12 13 Kelly M. Dermody (admitted *pro hac vice*) Anne B. Shaver (admitted *pro hac vice*) 14 Michael Levin-Gesundheit (admitted *pro hac vice*) Tiseme Zegeye (admitted *pro hac vice*) 15 Michelle Lamy (admitted *pro hac vice*) LIEFF, CABRASER, HEIMANN & 16 BERNSTEIN, LLP 17 275 Battery Street, 29th Floor San Francisco, CA 94111-3339 18 Telephone: (415) 956-1000 Facsimile: (415) 956-1008 19 E-Mail: kdermody@lchb.com E-Mail: ashaver@lchb.com 20 E-Mail: mlevin@lchb.com E-Mail: tzegeve@lchb.com 21 E-Mail: mlamy@lchb.com 22 23 24 25 26

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